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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-48 (Canceled).

49. (Currently Amended) ~~The polypeptide according to claim 27, wherein the viral genome is~~ A polypeptide fragment of a viral protein encoded by a nucleotide sequence from a viral genome selected from the group consisting of HIV-1 Bru, HIV-1 Mal, HIV-1 Eli, HIV-2 ROD, or SIV-1 MAC and expressed by a method comprising:

a) amplifying the nucleotide sequence encoding said polypeptide with at least two primers, wherein said first primer is complementary to a first region of nucleotides of a nucleic acid of said viral genome, and said second primer is complementary to a second region of nucleotides of a strand of DNA complementary to said nucleic acid of said viral genome, wherein said first and second regions of nucleotides are separated by about 100 to about 1100 base pairs, and said at least two primers are selected from the group of nucleotides, oriented in the 5' to 3' direction, consisting of:

SEQ ID NO:68;

nucleotides 6905-6930 (SEQ ID NO:46), 7055-7077 (SEQ ID NO:48), 7360-7384 (SEQ ID NO:49), 7832-7857 (SEQ ID NO:52), 8844-8869 (SEQ ID NO:53), 7629-7647 (SEQ ID NO:55), and 8224-8242 (SEQ ID NO:56) of the env gene of HIV-1 Bru;